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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 399
By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION relative to cost-sharing measures in the
TennCare program.

WHEREAS, present federal law prohibits the imposition of premiums and co-payments on Medicaid recipients; and

WHEREAS, likewise, TennCare recipients who are eligible for Medicaid cannot be required to pay premiums or co-payments; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly strongly believes that TennCare recipients who are Medicaid eligible should participate in cost-sharing measures such as premiums and co-payment as a matter of equity, because nearly all people who participate in the private health care insurance market, are required to pay premiums and/or co-payments at some point in their utilization of the health care system; and

WHEREAS, co-payments and premiums have the effect of creating a more involved and informed consumer of health care, because a consumer who is financially involved will undoubtedly be more discerning in utilizing the health care system; and

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WHEREAS, co-payments and premiums would also discourage the overutilization of health care by TennCare recipients; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly strongly urges the United States Congress to amend federal law to permit the State of Tennessee and other states utilizing managed care pursuant to a medicaid waiver to utilize various forms of cost-sharing arrangements, including the imposition of premiums and co-payments on TennCare recipients who are eligible for Medicaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; and to each member of Tennessee's congressional delegation.